



Greetings!

In this time of uncertainty and questions, I wanted to reach out to each of you. Know that our hope still remains in Christ. As a conference, our thoughts and prayers continue with each of you and your congregation. God has not given us a spirit of fear but due to the uniqueness of our conference and churches, we must use wisdom and make informed decisions as we plan through the upcoming weeks.

**At this point, the decision rests with each local church's pastor and leadership as to how your church should proceed in ministry for your congregation and community.**

As states and our federal government are starting to set limits on sizes of events, this will dictate in many situations. Please cooperate with the suggestions and mandates of the CDC and the state and federal governments. Remember, authority is set by God for our good. The goal is to stop the spread of this virus.

Activate your intercessors for prayer protection. Take intentional steps such as communication through emails, social media, phone, etc. to keep your congregation informed as to your churches plans. Make services available online. Facebook Live is the easiest, or simply record a scripture or devotion with your phone and post it. Communicate with your parishioners the ongoing need to tithe even when we cannot attend services and provide them with options on how to do so.

Let me encourage you to be mindful of the elderly in your church and community. Keep a close check on your seniors during this time in regards to groceries and medication. This can be a great opportunity for new and creative ways of ministry.

The conference has determined to be proactive during this time. In order to adhere to the CDC and federal/state guidelines, several conference events have been cancelled. We will be sending out email notifications and posting updates on our conference website and Facebook page. If you are not already following these sites, please do so now to stay up-to-date. Please see below for the links.

Know, that the conference office remains open. If we can be of any assistance, do not hesitate to contact us. We stand with you in prayer and trust God as He leads us.

Bishop K. Preston Mathena

